

HONORING RALPH AND ROBERT BROWN FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF WOUNDED WARRIORS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents, brothers Ralph and Robert Brown. Ralph and Robert will be attempting a 2nd Guinness World Record this summer by sailing non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean from Tampa, Florida to Hamburg, Germany to raise funds for Wounded Warrior Foundations.

In 2007, Ralph and Robert set their first Guinness World Record for the "longest non-stop ocean voyage in a flats boat" traveling from North Carolina to Bermuda and back to New York in a 21-foot open fishing boat of their own design. This voyage garnered a great deal of publicity and convinced the brothers to use this notoriety to raise money for Wounded Warriors Organizations in the future. Ralph and Robert will be using the publicity from their second voyage to raise money for six Wounded Warrior and Disabled Veterans Organizations, having set a goal of \$3 million.

In 1980, former Marine Ralph Brown was placed on the roster to liberate the American Embassy in Iran during the hostage takeover. However, at the last minute Ralph's group was replaced by another group of soldiers, out of which three men were killed. Mr. Brown and his brother have since dedicated their lives to honoring the lives of these three soldiers and their many other brave countrymen.

Madam Speaker, Ralph and Robert Brown truly are doing more than just saying "thanks," by raising money and awareness for our nation's wounded warriors. And they are doing so in one of the most original manners possible.

CONGRATULATING DONEISHA BROWN

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, this evening the Michelle Mitzvah Group and the Beth Haverim Shir Shalom Temple of Mahwah will bestow their LeBron-Michelle Mitzvah Scholarship upon an outstanding young woman, Doneisha Brown. Doneisha is a graduating senior at Eastside High School in Paterson, NJ, where she is ranked in the top 5 percent of her class. During her time at Eastside, Doneisha was active in the PEER Leadership Program, a student-run organization that helps incoming freshmen acclimate to a high school setting. PEER seeks to create a positive, reaffirming community by creating small support groups that cut across class divides, and by standing up against physical, emotional, and psychological bullying. Along with contributing to this very important organization, Doneisha is a scholar athlete, having competed in track and field and girl's softball.

The Michelle Mitzvah Group was founded by Marc Applebaum as a living memorial to

his daughter Michelle, who succumbed to leukemia. The Michelle Mitzvah Group seeks to practice the Jewish covenant of Mitzvah through "hands-on projects," such as ministering at children's hospitals, food banks, and homeless shelters. The Group also raises money for charities, sponsors blood drives, and collects items for our wounded veterans. Three years ago, Nathan LeBron partnered with the Michelle Mitzvah Group to form the LeBron-Michelle Mitzvah Scholarship Fund. Nathan is a cancer survivor who grew up in a dysfunctional home and was mentored by Marc Applebaum. With the love and support of individuals such as Marc, Nathan went on to graduate from SUNY Albany and Harvard University. Nathan formed the LeBron-Michelle Mitzvah Scholarship Fund to help other promising-yet-disadvantaged youths in receiving the help and guidance they require to go on to college or technical school.

Doneisha Brown is an exceptional student and role model for her peers. I am proud of her accomplishments, and expect great things from her as she continues her education. I am also proud of the Michelle Mitzvah Group and Beth Haverim Shir Shalom Temple on helping make a college education possible for Ms. Brown. Through this scholarship and countless other acts of selfless service, the individuals involved have made their community a better place. I wish all the very best in the coming years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, on the legislative day of Thursday, May 21, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to cast a vote on a number of Rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: Rollcall 289—"yea"; Rollcall 290—"yea"; Rollcall 291—"nay".

YARITZA HUERTA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yaritza Huerta, who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Yaritza Huerta is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yaritza Huerta is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Yaritza Huerta for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career in her future accomplishments.

HONORING MR. AND MRS. WALLY AND MARY GROTZ ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. and Mrs. Wally and Mary Grotz of Delano, Minnesota, on the occasion of their sixtieth wedding anniversary. For the last sixty years, they have raised four children and lived in the homestead Wally built while the town of Delano grew into a city. But this is no ordinary couple; they are some of America's "Greatest Generation" and both have tremendous wisdom to share from their personal histories.

Wally was a B-24 bomber pilot during World War II and at one point served under American film legend, Jimmy Stewart. But Wally's story goes much deeper. He was shot down over Germany in 1944 and taken as a Prisoner of War until May of 1945. When he returned home he found a job at the local post office where he worked for 34 years, serving as Postmaster for 16 years.

Mary spent her time working for Minnesota-based food producer, General Mills. Her job was as unique as she is; she answered cooking and baking questions as Betty Crocker, the General Mills kitchen icon. She still remains active in her church and the Delano community today.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Wally and Mary Grotz. Their accomplishments as individuals and dedicated citizens would be enough to warrant recognition, but the love and devotion they have shown to one another sweetens their story as American heroes. I wish them a happiest anniversary and another sixty years together!

IN HONOR OF GERALD OEHLER, M.D.

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, for more than 50 years, Dr. Gerald Oehler has dedicated his life and his work to the care and well being of his patients. Born January 29, 1933 in Harvey, North Dakota, Dr. Oehler's well rounded medical education came from Kansas University Medical Center, where he was trained in several specialties and gained the broad-based knowledge that would become his hallmark. Graduating from medical school in 1958, Dr. Oehler put his skills to work for his country, enjoying a distinguished career in the United States Navy.

Named to the staff at Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System in 1966 and Board Certified in 1973, Dr. Oehler's practice was dedicated to the entire patient. In his four decades at Salinas Valley Memorial, his surgical and family practice touched the lives of thousands in the Salinas Valley and Monterey Peninsula. Dr. Oehler's specialty was the patient, his practice in the operating room, at bedside or in his medical office. Regardless of the location, his knowledge and experience touched and saved lives.